

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. By this paper, claims 1 and 19-23 are amended and claim 18 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of any of these amendments.

The Office Action has rejected and claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sugiura (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,415) in view of either Goda '868 (U.S. Patent No. 6,506,868) or Goda '160 (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,160). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In claim 1, the Applicant expressly refers to:

“A sliding component, which is a component of a compressor, comprising:

a metal base member having a sliding surface; and

a coating layer made of silane-modified resin, the silane-modified resin being made from resin that is soluble in solvent and is equal to or higher in heat-resistant than epoxy resin, the coating layer being formed on the sliding surface.”

The Office Action acknowledges that Sugiura does not teach a silane modified resin in the coating layer [Office Action, p2]. Rather, the Office Action alleges that such silane-modified resins are known in the art as evidenced by the Goda references, and that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the silane-modified resins of Goda in the coating compositions of Sugiara [Office Action, p2-3]. Applicants note, however, that “[i]t is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination.” M.P.E.P.

§ 2145. The disclosure of Edgar is directed towards surfaces of a compressor that is coated with a coating layer made of a resin that includes epoxy resin, phenolic resin, furan resin, polyamideimide resin, and flourine series resin such as polytetrafluoroethylene, and that a single or combination of these resins may be used [col. 4, lines 2-9]. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Sugiara teaches away from using a silane-modified resin as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the Office Action has not pointed to any proper motivation to combine Sugiara with either of the Goda references. The Office Action states that “it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the silane-modified resins of Goda in the coating compositions of Sugiara.” Applicant respectfully submits that, in general, a coating for the sliding surface of a compressor cannot be used for coating the sliding surface of a compressor until it has all of the characteristics of seizure prevention, abrasion resistance and adhesion to a base member. The cited Goda references do not disclose that silane-modified epoxy resin has abrasion resistance and adhesion. Accordingly, there is nothing that would lead one skilled in the art to look from Sugiara to either of the Goda references or that the combination would even work.

Furthermore, Applicant’s respectfully submit that the invention recited in claim 1 produces unexpected advantages over the cited prior art. In the initial stage of operation of a compressor, gaseous refrigerant reaches a sliding surface and washes remaining lubricant oil reaches the sliding surface between a swash plate and a shoe. Accordingly, in the initial stage of operation of the compressor, the swash plate and the shoe slide on each other under dry and hard sliding condition without lubricating oil. If the swash plate and the shoe slide on each other

under such hard condition, the swash plate and the shoe possibly have seizure or abrasion, or adhesiveness to a base member may degrade, with the result that reliability of the compressor fails. As the sliding surface of a metal base member is coated with a coating made of silane-modified resin having a higher heat-resistance than epoxy resin, the application has unexpected advantageous effects (see Tables 1 and 2) in all seizure prevention, abrasion resistance and adhesion under such hard condition, in comparison to Sugiara in which the sliding surface of a metal base member is coated with a coating made of epoxy resin. These advantageous effects are not notable until it is used under hard condition, for example, used for a compressor.

Accordingly, this application has an advantageous effect which is also peculiar to a compressor.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, we believe that claim 1 should be in allowable form. Similarly, since claims 2-17 and claims 19-23 depend on claim 1, these claims should also be in allowable form.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as an admission that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Likewise, Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of each of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserve the right to address such rejection of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5095-4064.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5095-4064.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: Steven F. Meyer
Steven F. Meyer
Registration No. 35,613

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile